

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 01113 030847Z

17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 CU-02 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 BIB-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 /105 W

----- 122118

R 030805Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4753

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJ: MOROCCAN-SPANISH RELATIONS: PROPAGANDA ESCALATION

REF: MADRID 1346

1. SUMMARY. MOROCCANS HAVE INCREASED ANTI-SPANISH PROPAGANDA IN MEDIA AND, AS NOTED REFTEL, MAY BE TRYING TO REACTIVATE SOUTHERN LIBERATION ARMY GUERRILLA FORCE WHICH FOUGHT SPANISH IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO IN LATE 1950S. MOROCCANS TAKING NO RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AGAINST ENCLAVES. WHILE WE BELIEVE BOTH SIDES ABLE TO CUT THROUGH PROPAGANDA AND ACT REALISTICALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT NEAR TERM WILL SEE MORE POSTURING THAN SERIOUS EFFORTS AT OPENING DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 01113 030847Z

2. PAST WEEK HAS WITNESSED GRADUAL ESCALATION OF

ANTI-SPANISH PROPAGANDA IN SEMI-OFFICIAL AND NON-GOVERNMENT MEDIA. PRESS HAS COVERED AT LENGTH EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR MOROCCAN POSITION ON ENCLAVES BY LEBANESE PRESIDENT FRANJIEH AND ON BOTH ENCLAVES AND SAHARA BY SYRIAN NEWSPAPER EL BAATH. HEAVY TREATMENT ALSO ACCORDED TO MOROCCAN UN PERM REP SLAOUT'S DENUNCIATION OF FEBRUARY 16 INAUGURAL MEETING OF SAHARAN NATIONAL UNION PARTY IN AL AYIUN. FINALLY MEDIA GAVE MAJOR TREATMENT TO TOUR IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF TARFAYA OF GOM DELEGATION HEADED BY SEC OF STATE FOR GENERAL AFFAIRS AND SAHARA ZNINED. DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDED COL DLIMI, TOLD LOCAL POPULACE OF GOM'S PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF REGION AND SPEECHES TO LOCAL LEADERS CLEARLY ADDRESSED TO SAHRAOUI AS WELL.

3. SPANISH EMBASSY HERE ALSO HAS INFORMATION (REFTEL) THAT MOROCCANS LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF REACTIVATING SOUTHERN LIBERATION ARMY WHICH FOUGHT IN TARFAYA IN LATE 1950S. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY, LEADER OF THIS ACTIVITY MENTIONED IN REFTEL IS "COLONEL" BEN HAMOU, WHO WAS LEADER OF LIBERATION ARMY AND WHOM GOM RECENTLY PERMITTED RETURN FROM EXILE IN ALGERIA. BEN HAMOU IS STILL IN RABAT-CASABLANCA AREA ACCORDING TO SPANISH, BUT AN ASSOCIATE OF HIS IS IN SOUTH LOOKING SITUATION OVER. GIVEN AGE OF MANY OF FORMER LIBERATION ARMY MEMBERS, CONSIDERABLE NEW RECRUITING WOULD BE REQUIRED. ONE ASPECT OF MOROCCAN CAMPAIGN, EMBASSY SPECULATED, MIGHT BE TO INFILTRATE AGENTS INTO SAHARA LIBERATION FRONT (FROLISARIO) WHO WOULD ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE GUERRILLAS TO SEE THINGS GOM'S WAY.

4. SPANISH EMBASSY SAID IT HAD HEARD OF DISSENSION AMONG FROLISARIO'S POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC WINGS ON ONE HAND, AND "MILITARY" ELEMENTS ON OTHER. LATTER, WHO ARE SAHRAOUI, ARE IN PERIODIC COMBAT WITH SPANISH SECURITY FORCES, AND ARE BECOMING DISGRUNTLED WITH POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC TYPES, MANY OF WHOM ARE MOROCCAN, ALGERIAN OR MAURITANIAN. LATTER'S "MILITANCY", IN GUERRILLAS' PERCEPTION AT LEAST, SEEMS CONFINED TO SITTING IN TOWNS IN SAHARA AND MAURITANIA AND THINKING OF WAYS TO SPEND FUNDS PROVIDED THEM.

5. IN SAHARA, EMBASSY SAID, ALL ELEMENTS SEEM TO BE COALESCING UNDER INDEPENDENCE BANNER. THIS EPITOMIZED BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 01113 030847Z

ATTENDANCE OF FROLISARIO MEMBERS AT FEBRUARY 16 RALLY. SPANISH INDICATE THAT NON-MILITARY ELEMENTS OF FROLISARIO GENERALLY TOLERATED, EVEN THOUGH OCCASIONAL BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN TOWNS AND CLASHES BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND SAHRAOUI GENERALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO FROLISARIO GUERRILLAS.

6. TURNING TO ENCLAVES, SPANISH EMBASSY SAID THAT AT MOMENT MOROCCANS NOT ACCOMPANYING THEIR PROPAGANDA WITH CONCRETE,

HOSTILE ACTION OF ANY KIND. ON CONTRARY, BORDER FORMALITIES AT MINIMUM WITH MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES SOMETIMES NOT EVEN BOTHERING TO STAMP PASSPORTS OF THOSE ENTERING ENCLAVES. EMBASSY CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ANY ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST MOROCCANS LIVING IN ENCLAVES.

7. COMMENT: OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH SPANISH HERE SUPPORT REFTEL'S CONCLUSION THAT SPANISH, DESPITE BOMB BLASTS AND PERIODIC CLASHES WITH FROLISARIO, CONTENT TO SEE INDEPENDENCE IDEA GROW IN SAHARA. MOROCCANS MAY REGARD THIS AS RESPONSE TO THEIR INTRODUCING ENCLAVES ISSUE AND THEREFORE SEE NEED TO RAISE ANTE ON PROPAGANDA, AND POSSIBLY SOUTHERN LIBERATION ARMY, FRONTS.

8. IT WOULD BE MISTAKE, IN OUR VIEW, TO CONCLUDE FROM THIS THAT NO DIALOGUE IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER. EACH SIDE KNOWS OTHER WELL AND OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO CUT THROUGH PROPAGANDA AND ACT REALISTICALLY. NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD EXPECT NEAR TERM TO BE CHARACTERIZED MORE BY POSTURING ON BOTH SIDES THAN BY SERIOUS EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATING SOLUTION TO DIFFERENCES.

9. FOR DAMASCUS: MEDIA HERE MAY HAVE OVERSTATED DEGREE OF SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO ON SAHARA QUESTION. IF EL BAATH ARTICLE MENTIONED ABOVE, WHICH WE BELIEVE MUST HAVE APPEARED A WEEK OR SO AGO, IS READILY AVAILABLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPY BY POUCH.
NEUMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PROPAGANDA, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT01113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750073-0604
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750388/aaaadbry.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 1346
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCAN-SPANISH RELATIONS: PROPAGANDA ESCALATION
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, PBOR, MO, SS, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006